United Nations A/56/883

General Assembly

Distr.: General
21 March 2002
English
Original: Spanish

Fifty-sixth session
Agenda items 123 and 117

Programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003

Elimination of racism and racial discrimination

Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/56/L.84/Rev.1, as orally revised

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Santiago **Wins** (Uruguay)

1. At its 50th to 52nd meetings, on 14 and 15 March 2002, the Fifth Committee, pursuant to rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, considered the statement by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/56/38) of the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/56/L.84/Rev.1, as orally revised, on the comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance. An account of the Committee's discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/56/SR.50-52).

2. At the 50th meeting, on 14 March, the Director of Programme Planning and Budget Division introduced the statement of programme budget implications (A/C.5/56/38). The Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions Committee introduced the related report of that Committee (A/56/869).

3. At the 51st meeting, on 15 March, the representative of Cuba introduced a draft decision (A/C.5/56/L.49) submitted by Venezuela on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

4. At its 52nd meeting, on 15 March, the representative of Spain, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union, orally proposed the following amendments to the draft decision:

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(a) The insertion in the first paragraph of the words "subject to the provisions of the present decision" after the words "recommendations of the Advisory Committee";

(b) The insertion in subparagraph (a), before the word "Informs", of the following:

"Recommends to the General Assembly neither to approve funds requested for expenses related to regional meetings as described in paragraph 3 (a) (i) and (c) of the statement of programme budget implication (A/C.5/56/38), nor to approve the related proposed changes in the narrative of section 22, and".

5. At the same meeting, the representative of the United States of America orally proposed the following amendments to the draft decision:

(a) The insertion in subparagraph (b), between the words "to authorize" and the words "the Secretary-General", of the words "subject to (c) below";

(b) The addition of a new subparagraph (c), reading:

"Decides, pending submission of the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the review of the budget and management practices of the United Nations Human Rights Centre, as requested in General Assembly resolution 56/253, to defer consideration of document A/C.5/56/38."

6. At the same meeting, following discussions on his amendment, the representative of the United States withdrew his amendment.

7. The Committee then adopted draft decision A/C.5/56/L.49, as orally amended by the representative of Spain (see para. 8).

Decision of the Fifth Committee

8. The Fifth Committee, having considered the statement submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/56/38) of the programme budget implications of the draft resolution on the comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (A/C.3/56/L.84/Rev.1), and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/56/869), endorses the recommendations of the Advisory Committee, subject to the provisions of the present decision and, in this context:

(a) Recommends to the General Assembly neither to approve funds requested for expenses related to regional meetings as described in paragraph 3 (a) (i) and (c) of the statement of programme budget implications (A/C.5/56/38), nor to approve the related proposed changes in the narrative of section 22, and informs the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/C.3/56/L.84/Rev.1, expenditures not exceeding $566,800 would arise under section 22, Human rights, and $103,900 under section 32, Staff assessment (to be offset by an equivalent amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment) of the programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003;

(b) Recommends to the General Assembly to authorize the Secretary-General to enter into a commitment for an amount not exceeding $566,800 under section 22,

Human rights, and $103,900 under section 32, Staff assessment (to be offset by an equivalent amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment), on the understanding that the Secretary-General would report to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session on the actual requirements, and that these requirements would be dealt with by the Assembly, at that session, in accordance with established procedure.